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CONVENTION APPLICATION FOR A PATENT

LODGED AT SUB-OFFICE  
8 JUL 1985  
Melbourne

(1) Here insert (in full) Name or Names of Applicant or Applicants, followed by Address (es).

K (1) MARTIN HENRY KAUFMAN, of 4530 West Ridgecrest  
We ~~Blvd~~, Ridgecrest, California 93555, and  
JEANIE FRANCIS KAUFMAN and CHRIS ALLEN CERCEO,  
both of 1888 Apalachee, Box AP, South Lake Tahoe,  
California 95705, United States of America

(2) Here insert Title of Invention.

hereby apply for the grant of a Patent for an invention entitled: (2)  
TOOTHBRUSH

(3) Here insert number(s) of basic application(s)

which is described in the accompanying complete specification. This application is a  
Convention application and is based on the application numbered (3)  
650,814

(4) Here insert Name of basic Country or Countries, and basic date or dates

for a patent or similar protection made in (4) United States of America  
on 14th September 1984

~~My~~ Our address for service is Messrs. Edwd. Waters & Sons, Patent Attorneys,  
50 Queen Street, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

DATED this 5th day of July 1985

(5) Signatures (s) of Applicant (s) of Country and Signatures of its Officers as prescribed by its Articles of Association.

MARTIN HENRY KAUFMAN, JEANIE FRANCES KAUFMAN and CHRIS ALLEN CERCEO

by *W. F. Decker*

W. F. Decker  
Registered Patent Attorney

APPLICATION ACCEPTED AND AMENDMENTS  
4-12-89  
ALLOWED To: THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS.

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DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF A CONVENTION APPLICATION FOR A PATENT OR PATENT OF ADDITION

(1) Here insert (in full) Name or Names of Applicant or Applicants

In support of the Convention Application made by(1) MARTIN HENRY KAUFMAN, JEANIE FRANCES KAUFMAN and CHRIS ALLEN CERCEO

(2) Here insert title of Invention.

for a patent "TOOTHBRUSH" for an invention entitled:(2)

(3) Here insert (in full) Address or Addresses

We (1) MARTIN HENRY KAUFMAN of 4530 West Ridgecrest Blvd., Ridgecrest, California 93555, U.S.A.; JEANIE FRANCES KAUFMAN and CHRIS ALLEN CERCEO, both of 1888 Apalachee, Box AP, South Lake Tahoe, California, 95705, U.S.A.

do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:

1. We are the applicants for the patent.

(4) Here insert basic Country or Countries followed by date or dates and basic Applicant or Applicants.

2. The basic application as defined by Section 141 of the Act was made in(4) United States of America on the 14th day of September, 1984, by us.

on the day of 19, by

3. We are the actual inventors of the invention referred to in the basic application

(5) Here insert full Name(s) and Address(es) of actual Inventor(s) if other than Applicant(s).

Same as applicants

(6) Full Name of actual Inventor or Inventors.

Martin Henry Kaufman, Jeanie Frances Kaufman, Chris Allen Cerceo

4. The basic application referred to in paragraph 2 of this Declaration was the first application made in a Convention country in respect of the invention the subject of the application.

DECLARED at Ridgecrest, California

this second day of June 1985

(7) Signature of Applicant or Applicants.

Handwritten signatures of Martin Henry Kaufman, Jeanie Frances Kaufman, and Chris Allen Cerceo.

To: THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS.

**(12) PATENT ABRIDGMENT (11) Document No. AU-B-44677/85**  
**(19) AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE (10) Acceptance No. 593529**

(54) Title  
TOOTHBRUSH

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(56) Prior Art Documents  
AU 23332/56 212559 A46B 9/04  
US 4137593  
US 4115894

(57) Claim

1. A toothbrush comprising:  
means for grasping;  
means for brushing mounted on said means for grasping including an elongated base element having a longitudinal axis and providing a plurality of bristle elements extending generally transversely to said longitudinal axis, one end of said bristle elements being affixed to said base member and the other end of said bristle elements being free, said free ends defining together a tooth receiving channel means for receiving a tooth and guiding said means for brushing so that said free ends on one side of said channel means contact the side of a tooth at an angle of from 35 to 55 degrees, said tooth receiving channel means being planar or having generally a shallow V-shaped configuration in lateral cross-section, said bristle elements being arranged generally in two banks with the free ends of said bristle elements in a first bank extending convergingly with the free ends of said bristle elements in a second bank at an acute included angle of from 10 to 55 degrees, the bristle elements in each said

(11) AU-B-44677/85  
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bank being arranged generally in rows, said rows extending substantially transversely to said longitudinal axis with the laterally innermost bristle elements of the rows in each of said banks abutting one another for at least a part of their length adjacent to said free ends to form a doublet, the free ends of said abutting bristle ends being located at about the apex of said tooth receiving channel means, the laterally outermost ones of said bristle elements having a first length, the bristle elements forming said doublet having a length of from about one quarter to one half that of said first length, the lateral width of the opening of said tooth receiving channel means being from ~~about~~ one third to three quarters that of said first length, the overall height of said means for brushing being no more than approximately one and one half that of said first length, the overall width of said means for brushing being no more than approximately twice said first length.



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TOOTHBRUSH

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This application is a continuation in part of Application Serial No. 424,075, filed September 27, 1982, and Application Serial No. 451,039, filed February 22, 1983.

The present invention relates to a toothbrush and more particularly to a toothbrush which is particularly adapted to automatically guide the user to properly position the toothbrush in the mouth for efficient cleaning of the teeth.

Previously considerable difficulty had been experienced in providing a toothbrush which automatically tends to direct the operator to the correct positioning and use of the toothbrush without any prior instruction. Previous attempted expedients generally were incapable of accomplishing the desired result and moreover in some instances tended to risk damage to the teeth or the gums. Prior attempts to develop a toothbrush which would be capable of simultaneously cleaning a tooth surface, the cusps and gingival sulcus simultaneously have generally been wholly unsatisfactory. Further difficulty had previously been experienced in providing a toothbrush which, by reason of structural cooperation between the elements of the brush, would automatically cleanse the gingival sulcus at a bristle contact angle of approximately 45 degrees without any thought or extra effort on the part of the user.

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1 According to the present invention, a toothbrush is  
2 provided which is so configured that it promotes efficient  
3 proper usage automatically. This objective is achieved with  
4 a conveniently sized utensil which is inexpensive to  
5 manufacture and convenient to use. The toothbrush according  
6 to the present invention comprises an elongated handle and a  
7 head element in which bristle elements are embedded. The  
8 free ends of the bristle elements are shaped so as to  
9 provide a generally V-shaped tooth receiving channel which  
10 extends generally parallel with the longitudinal axis of the  
11 toothbrush. The surface of the head from which the bristle  
12 elements project may be planar or preferably may have a  
13 lateral cross section which is generally in the  
14 configuration of a shallow V. The bristle elements are  
15 generally arranged in columns which extend generally  
16 parallel to the longitudinal axis of the head and in rows  
17 which extend laterally or transversely across the head. For  
18 purposes of description, the bristle elements are shown and  
19 discussed as being arranged in columns and rows, even when  
20 they are so densely packed that it is difficult to determine  
21 the arrangement. The bristle elements are generally  
22 arranged in two banks with the bristle elements which  
23 provide the free ends that define one side of the generally  
24 V-shaped tooth receiving channel being in one bank and the  
25 bristle elements which provide the free ends that define the  
26 other side of the the generally V-shaped tooth receiving  
27 channel being in the other bank. The bristle elements in  
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1 the respective banks extend generally in a convergent manner  
2 so that if extended to the point of contacting one another,  
3 they would define therebetween an acute included angle. The  
4 bristle elements in the respective banks which are closest  
5 together extend into contact with one another at least at  
6 the tips to define therebetween a doublet. The doublet, by  
7 reason of the mutual support provided by the contact between  
8 the bristle elements and the shortness of the bristle  
9 elements provides a very stiff cleaning element for the  
10 nooks and crannies of the cusps of the teeth. The doublet  
11 thus formed is generally positioned at about the apex of the  
12 generally V-shaped tooth receiving channel. In a less  
13 preferred embodiment the stiff apex cleaning element may be  
14 formed by the inclusion of a third bristle element  
15 projecting upwardly toward said apex between the respective  
16 banks of bristles. Also, in the less preferred embodiment  
17 the third bristle element may form the primary stiff apex  
18 cleaning element with the bristle tufts from adjacent banks  
19 abutting with it, but not each other.

20 When a toothbrush is in operative position in contact  
21 with the teeth, it is preferred that the bristle elements  
22 contact the gingival sulcus at a predetermined acute angle  
23 of from approximately 35 to 55 degrees, preferably  
24 approximately 45 degrees. Medical science has found this to  
25 be an optimum cleaning angle for the gingival sulcus.  
26 Individuals exert different toothbrush pressures against  
27 their teeth, and the bristles are more or less flexible.

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1 Predetermining the tooth contacting angle permits the  
2 tailor-making of brushes to fit the idiosyncrasies of  
3 toothbrush users. The toothbrush of the present invention  
4 is structurally proportioned so that when its handle is  
5 grasped in the most normal manner by a user, the laterally  
6 outermost bristle elements extend to contact the gingival  
7 sulcus and the remainder of the bristles in the cleaning  
8 surface which is defined by one side of the tooth receiving  
9 channel clean the side and cusps of the teeth. One side of  
10 the tooth is cleaned at a time. The proportioning of the  
11 structure is such that the tooth receiving channel  
12 automatically guides the operation of the toothbrush to the  
13 most effective and efficient position. While the toothbrush  
14 is being operated, one side of the tooth channel acts as the  
15 cleaning surface and the other acts as a stop so as to limit  
16 the extent to which the bristles extend downwardly along and  
17 below the side of the tooth. The cleaning and limiting  
18 functions of the respective sides of the tooth receiving  
19 channel are reversed when the toothbrush is moved to the  
20 other side of the tooth.

21 A tooth has a front and back surface, a cusp area  
22 surface, and two tooth angles, one where the front surface  
23 meets the cusp area surface and the other where the rear  
24 surface meets the cusp area surface, each at the apex of a  
25 tooth angle. When the free ends of the bristles of one bank  
26 contact a tooth surface, the bristle ends of the other bank  
27 are contacting the cusp area surface and a tooth angle is  
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1 traversed. The traversed tooth angle acts like a hook or  
2 stop or guide rail for the brush during brushing so that the  
3 bristle ends of the outermost bristles which are cleaning  
4 the front or back tooth surface are held substantially in  
5 the vicinity of the gingival sulcus.

6 In order to accomplish the proper positioning and  
7 angular contact with the tooth, it has been found that the  
8 bristle elements in the respective banks of bristle elements  
9 should extend convergently at an included angle of from  
10 about 10 to 55 degrees and preferably from about 20 to 40  
11 degrees. At convergent angles of less than about 10  
12 degrees, the width of the brush across the free ends of the  
13 bristle elements becomes so great that it is cumbersome to  
14 handle and the proper positioning is difficult to achieve.  
15 At convergent angles greater than about 55 degrees, the  
16 width across the free end of the bristle elements becomes so  
17 small that it is difficult to properly operate the  
18 toothbrush.

19 The bristle elements are preferably defined by bunches  
20 of filaments, the individual ones of which have diameters of  
21 from approximately 0.15 to .4 millimeters and the combined  
22 diameter of which in a single tuft or bunch is from  
23 approximately 1 to 1.5 millimeters. The bristle elements  
24 may be composed of mixtures of individual filaments which  
25 have different characteristics. Different bristle elements  
26 may have different numbers of filaments. The  
27 characteristics of the individual filaments within one tuft  
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1 or between different tufts may be varied by the selection of  
2 filaments composed of different materials or different  
3 diameters or materials which have different physical  
4 characteristics due to different previous treatments.  
5 Within a single toothbrush the characteristics may be varied  
6 from one bristle element to another so that, for example,  
7 the bristle elements which are laterally outermost may be  
8 softer and less erosive in their action than those bristle  
9 elements which are closer to the apex of the tooth receiving  
10 channel. In general, increasing the length of a bristle  
11 element increases the softness of the cleaning action and  
12 decreases the erosiveness of the bristle element. If  
13 desired, some or all of the bristle elements may be tapered  
14 towards their free ends and the free ends may be polished.  
15 In general, the advantageous results according to the  
16 present invention are achieved utilizing no more than three  
17 or four bristle elements per row in each bank of bristle  
18 elements.

19 People exert different toothbrush pressures on their  
20 teeth. Those people who prefer to press the brush hard  
21 against the teeth generally prefer to feel the effect. The  
22 outermost bristles of their brush may be polished, but when  
23 all are substantially of one length, they can feel the  
24 bristle free ends spread as they press the brush against the  
25 teeth. In that case it is preferable that in the outermost  
26 columns the bristle elements be tapered. Tapering is  
27 conveniently accomplished by cutting the individual  
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1 filaments within a given bristle element to different  
2 lengths ranging from the full intended length of the  
3 outermost bristle to about 60 percent of that length.  
4 Because of the inherent characteristic that the bristle  
5 elements tend to become harsher in their cleaning action as  
6 the length of the bristle element decreases, it is generally  
7 undesirable to decrease the length of the shortest bristles  
8 in the doublet at the apex of the tooth receiving channel to  
9 less than approximately one quarter and preferably not less  
10 than approximately one third of the length of the laterally  
11 outermost bristle elements. It has been found possible to  
12 increase the length of the cleaning surface in the tooth  
13 receiving channel without decreasing the length of the  
14 bristle elements in the doublet by forming the base which  
15 supports the bristle elements into a generally V-shaped  
16 configuration. The bristle elements in the doublet project  
17 generally from the vicinity of the apex of the shallow V-  
18 shaped base member. Decreasing the obtuse angle of the  
19 generally V-shaped base to less than approximately 120  
20 degrees results in increasing the overall height of the  
21 brush to the point where it becomes generally uncomfortable  
22 and awkward to use. Generally the obtuse base angle will be  
23 within the range of about 125 degrees to 170 degrees. Above  
24 about 170 degrees the width of the brush becomes so large as  
25 to be cumbersome and awkward to use.

26 The toothbrush according to the present invention is  
27 preferably constructed in a variety of sizes to accommodate  
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1 different tooth sizes in children and adults. The  
2 proportions between the various elements in the toothbrush  
3 remain about the same, while the absolute sizes are changed  
4 to accommodate different tooth and mouth sizes. In general,  
5 the length of the laterally outermost bristle elements  
6 range from about 9 to 15 millimeters in length and  
7 preferably are approximately 11 millimeters in length for  
8 the average adult size, and from about 4 to 10 millimeters  
9 for pediatric sizes and preferably approximately 8  
10 millimeters for the pediatric brushes. The bristle elements  
11 which define the doublet generally have a length of from  
12 about one quarter to seven tenths, and preferably from one  
13 third to one half that of the laterally outermost bristle  
14 elements. The lateral width of the opening of the tooth  
15 receiving channel ranges from about one quarter to that of  
16 the length of the outermost bristle element, and preferably  
17 one third to three quarters of the length of the outermost  
18 bristle element. Below this range, the user sometimes  
19 encounters difficulty in easily inserting the teeth into the  
20 tooth receiving channel. For widths greater than this  
21 range, the toothbrush tends to become somewhat less self-  
22 positioning in the operating position. The overall height  
23 of the operating portion of the brush is generally no more  
24 than approximately one and one half that of the length of  
25 the laterally outermost bristle element, while the overall  
26 width is no more than approximately twice, and preferably no  
27 more than one and seven tenths, that length. Values for the  
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1 overall height and width which are greater than this tend to  
2 produce a structure which is so bulky as to be uncomfortable  
3 and difficult to use.

4 In one preferred embodiment it has been found that at a  
5 convergent angle of about 22 degrees, an overall height of  
6 about 18 millimeters, an overall width of about 22  
7 millimeters, a laterally outermost bristle length of about  
8 11 millimeters and a doublet bristle element length of about  
9 5 millimeters produces a very satisfactory result when three  
10 bristle elements are provided in each row of each bank.

11 Bristle elements in this preferred embodiment comprise  
12 bristle tufts in which the filaments have a diameter of  
13 about 0.18 millimeters and the diameter of the bristle tufts  
14 is approximately 1.5 millimeters. The distance between the  
15 attached ends of the doublet bristle elements is  
16 approximately 2.5 millimeters and the doublet bristle  
17 elements abut one another for a substantial portion of their  
18 length adjacent to the free ends. The base member in which  
19 the bristle elements are embedded has a generally shallow V-  
20 shaped configuration with an obtuse angle at the apex of  
21 about 140 degrees. The base is about 5 millimeters thick.

22 In general, the overall height of the operative portion of  
23 the toothbrush is from about 10 to 20 and preferably 12 to  
24 18 millimeters. The overall width of the operative portion  
25 of the toothbrush is generally from about 14 to 24 and  
26 preferably 16 to 22 millimeters. The head element in which  
27 the bristle elements are embedded is a unitary structure  
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consisting of a single member. The unitary nature of this structure promotes the strength and the cleanliness of the utensil, as well as tending to keep its size within the necessary ranges. In general, the abutting bristle elements abut one another for approximately one eighth to one half of their length adjacent to their free ends with preferably at least one quarter of such length being in such contact so as to provide additional support and stiffening for the doublet. The resultant stiffness and resistance to deformation contributes significantly to the cleaning ability of the brush insofar as the nooks and crannies of the cusps are concerned.

The distance between the affixed ends of the bristle elements which form the doublet can approach zero whereby a triangularlike zone substantially of bristles can be formed. This is particularly useful for cusps having deep grooves. If the distance between the affixed ends of the bristle elements which form the doublet get much larger than about three tuft diameters, the effectiveness of the doublet for cleaning the cusp area decreases as abutting tufts become less supportive of each other. The preferred distance between the affixed ends of the doublet is about one half to two tuft diameters with the bristle elements substantially in continual lateral succession in each row through both banks, there being no large gaps in the succession, particularly in the vicinity of the apex of the base member. The bristle elements can be substantially equally spaced

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1 both laterally and longitudinally with the affixed ends of  
2 abutting tufts being generally about one-half tuft diameter  
3 apart. The tufts or bunches can be positioned closer and  
4 closer together, approaching the close packed geometry of  
5 paint brushes. The close packed geometry can be beneficial  
6 in brushing the teeth as an increased number of bristle free  
7 ends contact a tooth surface during brushing.

8 Referring particularly to the drawings for the purposes  
9 of illustration only and not limitation, there is  
10 illustrated:

11 FIG. 1, a perspective view of a preferred embodiment of  
12 a toothbrush according to the present invention;

13 FIG. 2, a cross-sectional view taken along line 2-2 in  
14 Fig. 1;

15 FIG. 3, a cross-sectional view of a further embodiment  
16 in operative position adjacent to a tooth;

17 FIG. 4, a cross-sectional view of a further embodiment  
18 similar to the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 3 illustrating  
19 an acute included angle of approximately 30 degrees;

20 FIG. 5, a cross-sectional view of a further embodiment  
21 illustrating an acute included angle of approximately 10  
22 degrees; and

23 FIG. 6, a cross-sectional view of a further embodiment  
24 illustrating an acute included angle of approximately 55  
25 degrees.

26 Referring to the drawings, there is illustrated  
27 generally at 10 a toothbrush according to the present  
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1 invention which comprises a handle 12 for grasping and a  
2 head 14 which is provided with a plurality of bristle  
3 elements 16 for the purposes of providing a cleaning surface  
4 to clean teeth. A longitudinal axis 18 extends  
5 longitudinally through toothbrush 10.

6 Head 14 mounts a plurality of bristle elements. The  
7 laterally outermost bristle element 20, as illustrated  
8 particularly in Fig. 2, has a length indicated at 22  
9 between its outer free end 24 and its fixed end 26, which is  
10 embedded in head 14. Laterally, outermost bristle element  
11 or tuft 20, together with intermediate bristle tuft 28 and  
12 laterally innermost bristle tuft 30 define one row of a bank  
13 of bristle elements. Similarly, laterally innermost bristle  
14 tuft 32, intermediate bristle tuft 34 and laterally  
15 outermost bristle tuft 36 define one row of a second bank of  
16 bristle elements. Bristle tufts 30 and 32 together define  
17 doublet 38. A tooth receiving channel 40 is defined by the  
18 free ends of the respective bristle tufts in the two banks.  
19 The length of an operative cleaning surface defined by the  
20 respective free ends is indicated generally at 42 and  
21 extends from the free end of bristle tuft 36 to the free end  
22 of doublet 38. The lateral width of tooth receiving channel  
23 40 is indicated generally at 44. The overall height of the  
24 brushing member, which includes head 14 and the respective  
25 bristle tufts, is indicated generally at 46, while the  
26 overall width of the structure is indicated generally at 48.

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1 The further embodiment of the toothbrush, which has a  
2 generally shallow V-shaped cross-sectional base, is  
3 indicated generally at 54 in operative position relative to  
4 tooth 50 and gingival sulcus 52. The bristle elements in  
5 embodiment 54 are arranged in first bank 56 and second bank  
6 58. As illustrated particularly in Fig. 3, the cleaning  
7 surface is provided by the free ends of first bank 56, while  
8 the second bank 58 provides a stop for the purposes of  
9 guiding the toothbrush 54 in the proper operative position.

10 Referring particularly to Fig. 4, there is illustrated  
11 generally at 60 a further embodiment in which the individual  
12 bristle elements extend generally normal to the surface of  
13 the base from which they project. The convergent angle of  
14 approximately 30 degrees is provided by the shallow V  
15 configuration of the base.

16 Referring particularly to Fig. 5, there is illustrated  
17 generally at 62 an additional embodiment of the invention  
18 wherein four bristle tufts are provided in each row of each  
19 bank of bristle elements. The bristle elements project  
20 angularly from the generally planar surface of the base in  
21 which they are embedded. The convergent angle of the  
22 bristle elements in the respective banks is approximately 10  
23 degrees.

24 Referring particularly to Fig. 6, there is illustrated  
25 generally at 64 a further embodiment of the invention in  
26 which the bristle tufts are embedded in a generally planer  
27  
28

1 base and extend at a convergent angle of approximately 55  
2 degrees.

3 What have been described are preferred embodiments in  
4 which modifications and changes may be made without  
5 departing from the spirit and scope of the accompanying  
6 claims.

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THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A toothbrush comprising:  
means for grasping;  
means for brushing mounted on said means for grasping including an elongated base element having a longitudinal axis and mounting a plurality of bristle elements extending generally transversely to said longitudinal axis, one end of said bristle elements being affixed to said base member and the other end of said bristle elements being free, said free ends defining together a tooth receiving channel means for receiving a tooth and guiding said means for brushing so that said free ends on one side of said channel means contact the side of a tooth at an angle of from 35 to 55 degrees, said tooth receiving channel means being planar or having generally a shallow V-shaped configuration in lateral cross-section, said bristle elements being arranged generally in two banks with the free ends of said bristle elements in a first bank extending convergingly with the free ends of said bristle elements in a second bank at an acute included angle of from 10 to 55 degrees, the bristle elements in each said bank being arranged generally in rows, said rows extending substantially transversely to said longitudinal axis with the laterally innermost bristle elements of the rows in each of said banks abutting one another for at least a part of their length adjacent to said free ends to form a doublet, the free ends of said abutting

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1 bristle ends being located at about the apex of said tooth  
2 receiving channel means, the laterally outermost ones of  
3 said bristle elements having a first length, the bristle  
4 elements forming said doublet having a length of from about  
5 one quarter to one half that of said first length, the  
6 lateral width of the opening of said tooth receiving channel  
7 means being from ~~about~~ one third to three quarters that of  
8 said first length, the overall height of said means for  
9 brushing being no more than approximately one and one half  
10 that of said first length, the overall width of said means  
11 for brushing being no more than approximately twice said  
12 first length.

13  
14 2. A toothbrush of claim 1 wherein the laterally  
15 outermost ones of said bristle elements have a first length  
16 of from about 9 to 15 millimeters.

17  
18 3. A toothbrush of claim 1 wherein the laterally  
19 outermost ones of said bristle elements have a first length  
20 of about 11 millimeters.

21  
22 4. A toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said acute included  
23 angle is from about 20 to 40 degrees.

24  
25 5. A toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said rows within  
26 one said bank include three bristle elements.



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1 6. A toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said elongated base  
2 element has a generally shallow V-shaped <sup>configuration in</sup> lateral cross  
3 section with said bristle elements extending generally  
4 normal to the surface of said base from which they extend.  
5

6 7. A toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said elongated base  
7 element has a generally planar surface where said bristle  
8 elements are affixed to said base, said bristle elements  
9 extending generally angularly to said generally planar  
10 surface.  
11

12 8. A toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said bristle  
13 elements comprise bristle tuft elements containing a  
14 plurality of filaments having diameters of from about 0.15  
15 to 0.4 millimeters.  
16

17 9. A toothbrush of claim 1 wherein the bristle  
18 elements forming said doublet have a length of approximately  
19 one third that of said first length, the lateral width of  
20 the opening of said tooth receiving channel means being  
21 approximately one half that of said first length, the  
22 overall height of said means for brushing being from about  
23 12 to 18 millimeters, the overall width of said means for  
24 brushing being from about 18 to 22 millimeters and said  
25 acute included angle being from about 20 to 40 degrees.  
26  
27  
28



10. A toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said elongated base element comprises a unitary structure.

11. A toothbrush of claim 1 wherein said laterally innermost bristle elements of said first bank abut said laterally innermost bristle elements of said second bank for at least approximately one quarter of their length.

12. A toothbrush comprising:  
means for grasping;  
means for brushing mounted on said means for grasping including an elongated base element having a longitudinal axis and mounting a plurality of bristle elements extending generally transversely to said longitudinal axis, one end of said bristle elements being affixed to said base member and the other end of said bristle elements being free, said free ends defining together a tooth receiving channel means for receiving a tooth and guiding said means for brushing so that said free ends on one side of said channel means contact the side of a tooth at a predetermined acute angle, said tooth receiving channel means being planar or having generally a shallow V-shaped configuration in lateral cross-section, said bristle elements being arranged generally in two banks with the free ends of said bristle elements in a first bank extending convergingly with the free ends of said bristle elements in a second bank at an acute included angle of from 10 to 55 degrees, the bristle elements in each said

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1 bank being arranged generally in rows, said rows extending  
2 substantially transversely to said longitudinal axis,  
3 bristle means for defining a stiff apex cleaning element,  
4 said bristle means including the laterally innermost bristle  
5 elements of the rows in each of said banks, the laterally  
6 outermost ones of said bristle elements having a first  
7 length, the bristle elements forming said stiff apex  
8 cleaning element having a length of from ~~about~~ one quarter  
9 to seven tenths that of said first length.

11 13. A toothbrush of claim 12 wherein the laterally  
12 outermost ones of said bristle elements have a first length  
13 of from about 4 to 10 millimeters.

15 14. A toothbrush of claim 12 wherein the laterally  
16 outermost ones of said bristle elements have a first length  
17 of approximately 8 millimeters.

19 15. A toothbrush of claim 12 wherein said bristle  
20 elements have a generally uniform spacing of about one-half  
21 bristle element diameter.

22 DATED this 5th day of July 1985.  
23 MARTIN HENRY KAUFMAN, JEANIE FRANCES KAUFMAN  
24 and CHRIS ALLEN CERCEO

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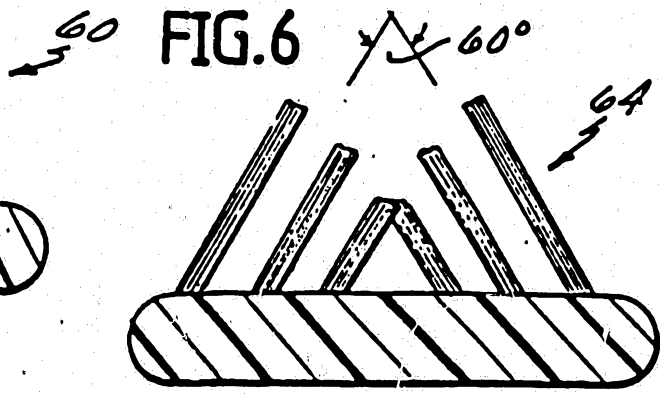
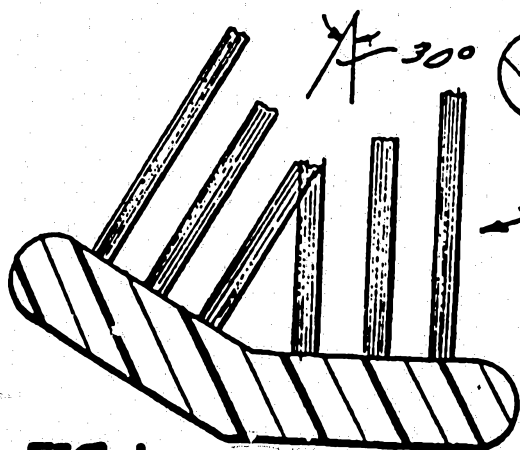
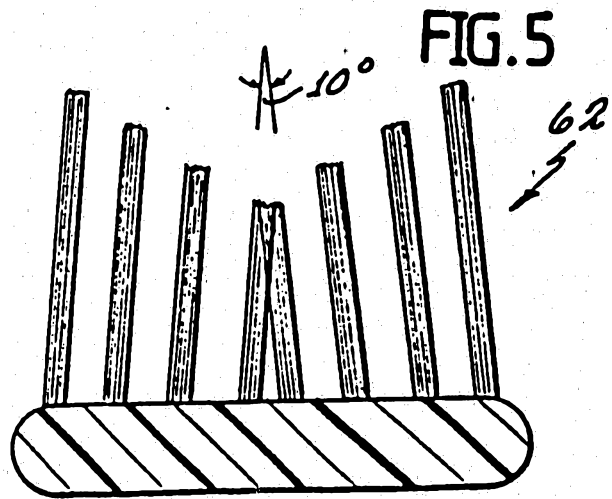
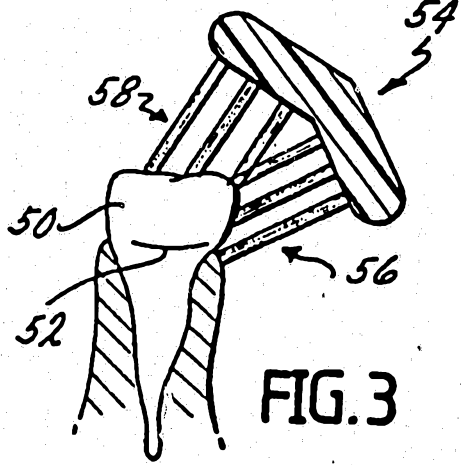
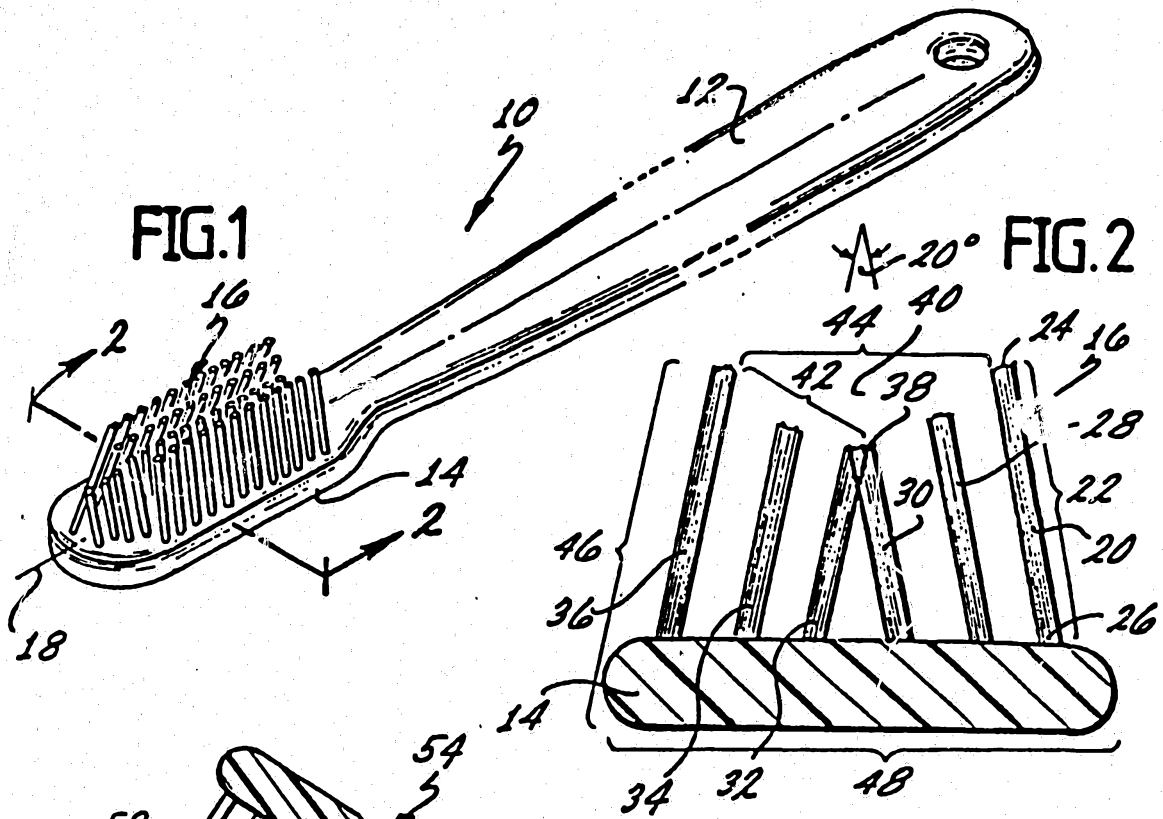


FIG. 4

FIG. 3

FIG. 1

FIG. 2

FIG. 5

FIG. 6